



ST. GEORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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24 Duff Street,
ARNCLIFFE. 2205.

March 1983.

Dear Friend and Member,

The March Meeting will be held as follows:-

Date: Friday Evening, March 18, 1983, at 8.00 p.m.

Place: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Princes Highway, Rockdale.

Business: General.

Syllabus Item: Guest Speaker will be Mr. Ian Ryan, Station Manager of the Southern Districts New Stereo F.M. Radio Station 2NBC. His subject: "The Communities' Involvement, and Possibilities in Community Access Radio". This will be to the advantage of the Society.

Supper Roster: Mrs. Jones, Captain, and helpers Misses Murphy and Wood.

Ladies please bring a plate.

Mr. R. Lee,
President.
Phone 570 1244

Mrs. B. Perkins,
Publicity Officer.
Phone 587 9164

Mrs. E. Eardley,
Sec. & Bulletin Edtr.
Phone 59. 8078

Mrs. E. Wright,
Treasurer.
Phone 599 4884

Miss D. Row,
Social Secretary.
Phone 50 9300

Mr. A. Ellis,
Research Officer.
Phone 587 1159

"It's hard to say you're sorry, admit you're in the wrong,
But eating humble pie can make the weakest will grow strong,
And, in the owning up there'll be your self-respect restored - you'll see."

..... The Friendship Book 1983.

Many of our Members have been and still are ill. We are sorry to hear this and hope they will be well again soon.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The St. George Historical Society is pleased to announce that the following books, written and illustrated by the late Gifford H. Eardley for the Society, have been reprinted and are now available. Books No.8 and No.9 have been compiled by Mrs. Bronwyn Perkins.

- No. 1. "The Wollie Creek Valley"
- No. 2. "Kogarah to Sans Souci Tramway"
- No. 3. "Saywells Tramway - Rockdale to Lady Robinson's Beach"
- No. 4. "Arncliffe to Bexley Tramway"
- No. 5. "Our Heritage in Stone"
- No. 6. "All Stations to Como"
- No. 7. "Tempe and the Black Creek Valley"
- No. 8. "Early Churches of the St. George District"
- No. 9. "Early Settlers of the St. George District" - will be available at an early date.

For your copy of the above books, please contact one of the following:-
Mrs. E. Wright - Phone 599 4884, Miss B. Otton - Phone 59 4259 (after 8 p.m.)
Mrs. E. Eardley - Sec., Phone 59 8078, Mr. A. Ellis - Phone 587 1159.

Book No.9 - "Early Settlers of the St. George District" - We would like to thank those members who have contributed. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

HERITAGE WEEK - APRIL 10TH - 17TH, 1983.

Wednesday, Afternoon Coach Tour - St. George Area - Historical Churches,
 APRIL 13TH. Sites, Etc. Etc. Guide - Mr. Arthur Ellis.

Two Coaches will be available to avoid disappointment.

Meeting Place: Western Side of Rockdale Station.

Time: 2.00 p.m. SHARP. - Return approximately 5.00 p.m.

Cost: \$3.00 per person, by ticket only, available at Coach.
Miss D. Row, Social Secretary.

Friday, Regular Monthly Meeting of Historical Society,
 APRIL 15TH. held as per notice, Time 8.00 p.m.

VISITORS WELCOME

SYLLABUS ITEM: 'History of TEMPE HOUSE'
Sister Catherine O'Carrigan, from St. Vincents Hospital,
is arranging for the speaker.

Saturday & Sunday, "Lydham Hall", Historic Home, owned by the Rockdale Council,
 APRIL 16TH & 17TH. and situated at Lydham Avenue, Rockdale, will be open for
inspection on the above days, from 10.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Nominal charge for admission.

Light refreshments will be available at reasonable cost.
St. George Historical Society Books - Numbers 1 to 9 inclusive -
will also be on sale.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT OUR MEETINGS.

The following two articles were read to the January 1983 meeting of the St. George Historical Society, by its Research Officer, Mr Arthur Ellis.

Both articles appeared in "Forest and Timber", Journal of the Forestry Commission of N.S.W. Vol.18, No.1, March 1982.

CLEARING THE FOREST. 1792-1882.

- Dr L.T.Carron
Reader, Dept.Forestry
A.N.U. Canberra.

Australia's timbers did not find much support among members of the First Fleet. Though Sir Joseph Banks, whose enthusiasm for Botany Bay, which he visited with Captain Cook, was an important influence on the Government's choice of it as a site for the first settlement, saw its timbers as "...fir for all the purposes of home building and ship building", Cook's view that "...most of the large trees of this country are of a hard and ponderous nature and could not be applied to many purposes" found more support amongst the First Fleeters.

Surgeon-General White made no bones about his feelings after a few weeks experience in the new settlement "... the timber of this country is very unfit for the purpose of building; nor do I know of any one purpose for which it will answer except for firewood and for that it is excellent; but in other respects it is the worst wood that any country or climate ever produced".

The discovery of red cedar on the banks of the Hawkesbury, about two years after the first settlement, with its soft and tractable wood of rich colour and beautiful finish, was thus clearly welcome. It was to this tree, as much as anything else, that the subsequent exploration and settlement of much of the east coast was due.

So attractive were the properties of cedar, and so great the demand for it, that within a hundred years the cedar getters had found it in the coastal forests 200 km south of Sydney to Ulladulla and 2000 km north to the Atherton Tableland. Farming of the relatively rich soils on which the cedar grew followed in the wake of the cutters.

Nevertheless, the first settlers needed shelter immediately and in time, more permanent buildings for administration and commerce. They gradually adapted their limited skills and tools for pitsawing, carpentry and joinery to the local trees and, within three years of his arrival, Phillip had despatched a large parcel of various woods to England for trial. Shortly afterwards, Governor Hunter was being asked to look into the possibility of back-loading wood

to the Cape of Good Hope to repair ships on their way to and from Australia.

In 1802, the Admiralty issued instructions that ships taking convicts to N.S.W. should bring home as much timber as possible, particularly for His Majesty's dock yards - an interest that waned with the end of the Napoleonic wars, but was gradually taken up by private entrepreneurs.

The British Colonial Government went further, instructing Governor Phillip to reserve to the Crown "...such timber as may be growing or to grow hereafter upon the said land which may be fit for naval purposes".

The discovery of cedar on the Hawkesbury, so close to Sydney, prompted such heavy cutting of the forest that in 1795 Governor Hunter introduced regulations to control it. This was followed in 1803 by an order by Governor King which, exceptionally enlightened for the time and one of the earliest records of a conservation philosophy in Australia, expressed concern at the erosion occurring along the river due to indiscriminate cutting and forbade the cutting of any tree or shrub growing within several metres of the edge of the bank.

As the colony expanded, regulations were introduced requiring a licence to cut and remove timber from Crown lands, which ensured priority for Govt. timber supplies, allowed some restraint on the kind and amount of tree removal, and provided a source of revenue, however small, for an Administration sorely in need of it. In 1801, "coals and timber which are to be produced at Hunter's River" were declared to be the exclusive property of the Crown and a special licence was needed to remove them. In 1802, felling of cedar on the Hawkesbury without permission was declared illegal.

By 1820, timber gatters needed licences to operate, which also specified the quantity to be cut.

Firmer definitions of Crown lands over the next fifty years was accompanied by a series of regulations vesting authority in Crown Lands Commissioners to "persons of good character" for the cutting and removal of timber from them for a fee. But it was a big country with few scattered administrative staff to police the regulations and, as a Royal Commission set up to inquire into forestry reported in 1909, "in no instance did... (the regulations)... deal with matters beyond the size and description of trees to be cut and the terms and conditions for the cutting and removal of the timber. The licensee... was practically left to do as he wished in the forest. He felled what trees he liked, removed what pleased him,

and left on the ground to rot what did not suit him".

By the middle of the 19th century, the lack of control and the selective nature of cutting on Crown lands, allied as it was to the complete clearing of the forest cover from Crown land that had been alienated for agriculture, began to cause concern.

To a colony with an increasing population depending for itself a long way from any other source of food supply, and desperate for external income necessary for development, agriculture was essential. To the settler, the forest was merely an impediment to growing food crops and grass for grazing animals. Worse still, the better soils almost invariably carried the heavier forest cover and made clearing even more back-breaking.

It was this indiscriminate clearing and its rate which began to worry various people, particularly the land surveyors who were close witnesses to it, that there might soon be no forest left. Just how much forest was removed in clearing for settlement, or rendered unproductive by selective cutting, during this early period is not known. From our knowledge of the present extent of the various forest types of N.S.W. and the likely limits of their natural distribution, we can make informed guesses. George Baur of the Forestry Commission, said in 1972 that the present forest estate is only about 30 to 40 per cent of what it was when the First Fleet arrived.

Whatever the rate of destruction, it was enough for some people to press the N.S.W. Govt., to reserve some forested land for the permanent production of wood. An Act had been promulgated in 1861 providing for the dedication of Crown lands for a great range of purposes, but this did not include timber production. In 1871-72, however, the Govt. used this Act to "reserve from sale for the preservation of timber" a very large area of the Murray River red gum forests and another very large area of coastal hardwood forests and "brush" on the Clarence River. The reservations were in a loose form which could be revoked fairly readily but, since forestry is usually considered to begin in a country when its people begin to demarcate forest areas and reserve them specifically for such purposes as timber production, then forestry might be considered to have begun in N.S.W. (and in Australia as a whole for that matter) with those two reservations.

Further large reservations were created in 1875 in the cypress pine and eucalypt forests of the Pilliga in the north-west; in the wet sclerophyll forests of the Southern Highlands; and in the hoop pine-coachwood "scrubs" of the Dorrigo Plateau. Ten years after the first reserves were proclaimed, there were 460 of them with a combined area considerably in excess of a million hectares, half of them being "exempted" reserves on which felling

could be carried out only under specially issued permit licences. This licencing system was backed by a special set of State Forest Regulations introduced in 1878. These regulations were designed to confine cutting to mature trees on defined blocks during a specified period of time after which the blocks would be closed against further operations to allow regeneration and the growth of saplings and poles into the next crop. The royalty imposed on the felled timber was to be used for silvicultural treatment of the remaining forest. This approach has changed little in principle in the hundred years since then.

Though the first reserves were gazetted in 1871, it was not until late 1875 that special officers were appointed to supervise them, the first Forest Ranger being Mr J A Manton. William Carron was appointed Ranger to the Clarence Reserves (he had been influential in having these created) but died shortly after taking up duty there.

In 1876, as small branch of the Lands Dept., called the Occupation of Lands Branch, was formed to administer the regulations under the various Crown Lands Acts that related to these reserves. In 1878, this Branch was transferred to the Dept. of Mines, though it remained in the same quarters with the Dept. of Lands.

In 1881, the poet Henry Kendall, was made the first inspector of Forests by the then Premier, (Sir) Henry Parkes, whose early admiration of Kendall's writing had developed into a friendship between them of long standing. As well as his intense love and feeling for the bush, Kendall had had a practical association with it from some years of employment in the timber industry in various parts of the State and from these points of view was well fitted for the job. Unfortunately, he was no longer robust enough for what was a very arduous job and he died in late 1882.

A Forest Conservancy Branch was formed in March, 1882, from the Occupation of Lands Branch - a title which aptly marks the birthdate of today's Forestry Commission.

HENRY KENDALL - 1839-1882: Poet & Forestry Pioneer.

- Research notes by Karen Smith
Management Planning Division
Forestry Commission of N.S.W.

Henry Kendall was a poet who loved the bush. He lived in it, worked with it and wrote about it and the people who worked in it. A melodic poet and sometimes acerbic satirist, Kendall was a loyal friend of five-times Premier of N.S.W., Sir Henry Parkes and the first Forest Inspector of the new Forest Conservancy Branch in 1882.

Kendall lived a short life of only 43 years, before dying on August 1, 1882. In it he managed to pack more than the normal allotment of despair and tragedy, with several friends dying in tragic circumstances or suiciding and two of his seven children dying in infancy. He died of tuberculosis at a friend's house in Sydney after a short illness. Henry had been the Forest Inspector for only sixteen months.

He was a friend of many of the great and famous of the time - Parkes, Adam Lindsay Gordon, fellow poet Charles Harpur, and G.G.McRae to name some. Three books of his work were produced - Poems & Songs (1862), Leaves from Australian Forests (1869), and Songs from the Mountains (1880).

Henry was born on April 18, 1839 near Ulladulla on the south coast. His grandfather engaged in the timber industry in the same area. While Henry was still young his father took the family to the Clarence River in the far north of the State where the cedar trade was flourishing among the dense forests of the northern mountains and valleys. This exposure to the mountains and forests of N.S.W. left a deep impression. Later in life Henry was to resign from a desk job and spend a significant period of his life in the forest or in work which kept him in contact with it.

When he was 16, three years after his father's death at sea, Kendall ventured on his only major sea journey as cabin boy aboard a whaling ship for two years. It was not a happy voyage and Henry wrote only two poems - The Ballad of Tanna and Beyond Kerguelen, that dealt with it.

Soon after his return from the sea in 1857, this nervous and frail 16 year old began writing verse for Sydney journals. He later became a clerk to Grafton solicitor, James Michael, himself a published poet. Michael encouraged Henry's literary bent with advice and a well-selected home library.

By the early 1860's, Kendall's poetry began to appear in the columns of the Sydney press. The promise shown in his verse attracted the friendship of well-known editors, critics and poets.

Kendall's first book of verse - Poems and Songs - was published in 1862 and sold well. He then transferred to the Surveyor-General's office in Sydney where he worked as a clerk and first met Henry Parkes. When Parkes became Colonial Secretary in 1866 he had his friend Kendall transferred to his own department. At this time Kendall was writing very little serious work, being troubled with financial and domestic worries.

While delivering lectures at the Sydney School of Arts, Henry met Charlotte Rutter, the daughter of a Govt. Medical Officer. They were married in 1868. At this time, Kendall was heavily in debt to Parkes and others.

Wearying of his clerking work and desiring better recognition for his literary talents, Kendall moved to Melbourne in 1869 where his second book - Leaves from Australian Forests - was published. It was not a success. Then followed several years of poverty and a drinking problem. His wife left him and Kendall wandered homeless for a while before suffering a nervous breakdown in 1872. He later referred to this period as "The Shadow of 1872".

Kendall was offered a job as editor of a Grafton newspaper about the middle of the year. He set out for Grafton by ship from Sydney, went ashore at Newcastle and failed to return to the ship after a drinking bout. Then followed a period of destitution in Newcastle. In October or November he set out to walk back to Sydney. Kendall was befriended by the Fagan family, a family of timber merchants who lived on a property near Gosford. That area provided the inspiration for some of his best-known poetry and was the beginning of a long and prolific period for him.

In 1875, Kendall moved to Camden Haven on the N.S.W. north coast where he worked as a storekeeper in Fagan's timber business. The next year, his wife rejoined him there and they lived in a house built for him by the Fagans. The reunion was a happy one and Henry began writing prolifically for leading Australian journals. His health was not good.

In April 1881, Kendall's practical acquaintance with the forest and the timber industry was remembered by Sir Henry Parkes, again Colonial Secretary, who appointed him to the post of inspector of Forests with an annual salary of £350. Being a Civil Servant, Kendall ceased to write political and satirical verse for the Sydney press.

Kendall's job as Inspector was to visit the forest reserves that had been established in 1871 and later, and to check on the local settlers' ringbarking depredations of the forest to keep the destruction down.

Kendall soon discovered that travelling on horseback in all weathers to inspect forestry reserves was beyond his strength. However, he didn't resign the position because Parkes, to whom he felt an obligation to resign personally, was absent from Australia, and because he wanted to provide adequately for his wife and six children.

In June 1882 Henry Kendall collapsed at Wagga Wagga. He was brought to Sydney's St. Vincent's Hospital by Peter Fagan before being moved to a house at Redfern where he was nursed by his wife. Nearly two months later one of the most important poets of the 19th century and the State's first Forest Inspector died tuberculosis.

SIR SAMUEL McCAUGHEY. 1835-1919.

- Ralph Dunsmore.

Sir Samuel McCaughey was one of Australia's leading Pastoralists and Benefactors. Born at Ballymena, County Antrim, Ireland in 1835, his father was a farmer and merchant. Samuel was the eldest of three brothers.

He came to Australia in 1856 and was Jackerooing at "Kenwell" in the Wimmera district of Victoria, a property owned by his uncles, the Wilson brothers. After two years experience he organised a large fencing and subdivisional contract and was promoted to ~~man~~anager. In 1860 he became a partner with David Wilson and John Cochrane in "Coonong" near Narrandera, and in 1864 was the sole owner.

Recognising that water was the pressing need for the country's development he set about creating an abundant supply by putting down bores, building tanks and dams, and bringing water from the river by open cut channels, using steam traction engines as well as horses. He put up miles of fencing making smaller and more manageable paddocks.

"Coonong" had been a cattle property, Sir Samuel now converted it to mainly sheep. He commenced his sheep breeding by purchasing Widgewa Ewes, and using "Havilah" and "Mona Vale" (Tasmania) rams. These he followed by using "Boonoke" and "Wangella" rams. Whilst in Sydney at the sheep sales he bought 10 Vermont rams that came from California. He was so pleased with these that in 1886 he went to America and acquired the best Vermonts the country had to offer, both ewes and rams. During this time he was having great success exhibiting and showing his sheep, taking all the major prizes before him. He was hailed as one of Australias's leading sheep breeders of his day. He did not concentrate his breeding on one blood but spared no expense to buy any sheep that he thought would improve his flock. The Vermonts fell out of favour owing to their wrinkles, which were a haven for the blowfly. They did not have a very strong constitution. Most breeders since then think that their introduction was a disaster. Sir Samuel made "Coonong" into a very highly improved and profitable property. His nephew Roy, carried on the good work when he took over in 1919. "Coonong" is renowned for its sheep and stud cattle. In 1963 it was valued at 2,500,000 pounds.

In 1880 he acquired "Dunlop" and "Toorale" stations out on the Darling River from Sir Samuel Wilson. These are two large properties of historical interest. They comprised about 3,000,000 acres and carried 260,000

sheep. Here he carried out his water conservation ideals, putting down many bores and building dams. "Toorale" was the first shearing shed to have electric lights. "Dunlop" was the first shed to have all machine shears.

Sir Samuel had two brothers, David and John, who helped him in managing his empire and at the height of his career owned or had interest in 12 properties in N.S.W and Queensland, and was shearing over 1,000,000 sheep. Some of the properties were:- Coonong, Goolgumbla, Coree, North Yanco in N.S.W., Rockwood, Tower Hill, Barenya, Antrim in the Longreach District, and Bonus Downs at Mitchell in Queensland.

In 1899 he was nominated for the Legislative Council in N.S.W. and was Knighted in 1905 for his services to the Pastoral Industry and his generosity and help to worthy causes.

He purchased North Yanco from H & C Douglas, 100,000 acres in 1899. This was a large area of dry unimproved country, situated on the Murrumbidgee River about 15 miles from Narrendera, here he built a large pumping station and dam, constructed miles of channels and drains, irrigating 40,000 acres of land. A lot of lucerne and fodder crops were grown for the stock. He built a 45 stand shearing shed, a huge blacksmith's shop, where he was able to make a lot of the ditchers, delvers and equipment used in making the drains and channels, also a sawmill to cut his own timber. For himself he had a noble mansion built, set in 8 acres of lawns and gardens, an orchard, artificial lake etc., and made himself very comfortable.

There is no doubt that Sir Samuel's example and success inspired the Government into building the Burrenjuck Dam, Berembed Weir and the M.I.A, the first settlers taking up farms in 1912.

He was getting on in years, and in 1911 began to dispose of his assets, selling his Queensland properties, then his Western interests. The Government resumed North Yanco leaving Sir Samuel 30,000 acres at a small rental for his life time. He was very generous to his employees, and helped many of his managers to acquire their own properties. He died on 25th July 1919, remaining a bachelor. He was buried in the Presbyterian portion of the Narrendera Cemetery.

He left many Bequests including:-

£458,000 to be administered by the A.I.F. Canteen Fund, for the technical training of disabled soldiers and scholarships for their children.

The University of Sydney received £458,000 and the University of Queensland £225,000. Both Universities established McCaughey Professorships.

The Presbyterian Church was given £225,000, the Scots College and Burnside Homes, each received £20,000.

Five other schools received £10,000 and three Sydney and four country hospitals were given £5,000 each.

His homestead and 640 acres of land were turned into the Yanco Agricultural High School, which was opened in 1922 by the Minister for Education, Mr. T.D. Mutch, the first Headmaster being Mr. E.A. Breakwell.

Sir Samuel's nephews carried on the good work and in 1919, David, known as Roy McCaughey, purchased "Coonong" from his Uncle and he also was Knighted in 1963, for his services to the Pastoral Industry.

Another nephew, Samuel, son of David, inherited "Coree" Station, Jerilderie from his father. He and his brother David gave a large portion of "Coree" to the Trustees to establish a pastoral training centre which is now known as the McCaughey Institute. This is run in close co-operation with "Coree" Pastoral Company.
